

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2007
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Council Members Present:

John H. Tarr, Mayor
Anita Speidel, Vice Mayor
Terry Howard, Councilman
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman
E. David Ross, Councilman
Glenn B. Wolfe, Councilman

Council Members Absent:

Nancy B. Conklin, Councilwoman

Call to Order

Mayor Tarr called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Invocation

Councilman Ross offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Tarr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Forum/Public Participation.

- Mrs. Sylvia Parks, Congresswoman Thelma Drake's field representative for the Eastern Shore, stated that Mrs. Drake's office is available to help Council with the Emergency Operations Plan.
- Mr. Mike Handforth of the Charter Boat Association requested that Council write a letter to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) in support of option three of the proposed flounder regulations which constitutes a minimum size of 18 ½ inches, a maximum of three fish, and no closed season. He added that the Charter Boat Association supports option three as well. It was the consensus of Council to write a letter to the VMRC supporting option three with the requirements stated above.

Agenda Additions/Deletions and Adoption

Mayor Tarr asked that agenda item number seven, Closed Session for Discussion of Possible Land Acquisition, be added. Councilwoman Richardson asked that agenda item number five, Planning Commission Member Vacancy Nomination, be deleted until all members of Council are present. Councilman Howard recommended that anyone interested in filling Committee positions should submit a letter of introduction and intent to Council for consideration. Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilman Wolfe, to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the January 18, 2007 Council Meeting.

Councilman Wolfe motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Cemetery Committee Report of January 23, 2007.

Councilman Howard requested that the Committee be allowed to solicit donations from local organizations as has been done in the past. It was the consensus of Council to allow the Committee to do so. Councilman Howard announced that the Committee will hold quarterly meetings beginning April 24 at 5:30 pm. He also requested that the Budget and Personnel Committee consider a donation to the Cemetery Cleanup Fund.

3. Deed of Gift – Library Property.

Mayor Tarr presented the deed of gift to the Island Library for its expansion project. Mrs. Linda Ryan accepted the deed of gift and informed Council and the public of the Library's plan for expansion.

Mayor Tarr stated that he will request that the Budget and Personnel Committee consider a one-time construction donation to the Island Library for Fiscal Year 2008.

4. Accomack County Board of Supervisors Update.

Islands District Supervisor, Honorable Wanda Thornton, updated Council with several issues that the County is currently facing that may affect the Island:

- The Power Generating Bill that is before the state legislature proposes to eliminate the regulation of prohibiting annual 20% rate increases from Delmarva Power to its Virginia customers. Also, House Bill 599 proposes to repeal funding for communities with police departments and redirect the funding to transportation progress. Supervisor Thornton stated that she has been lobbying in Richmond to defeat these bills.
- The Homestead Constitutional Exemption will allow localities to exempt or defer property taxes up to 20% of the value of a residential dwelling or farm property.
- There is a proposed bill to require landfill operators to pay a tipping fee per tonnage which will be devastating for the County and incorporated towns.
- She recommended that the Town determine which areas of the Island that Council wants to include in the Enterprise Zone by the fall of 2007.
- The reassessment project is continuing.
- The dredging projects [and other small navigational projects] for the Eastern Shore have been cancelled due to funding cuts by the President. Supervisor Thornton stated that the County is compiling information regarding the economic impact of the funding cuts on our community and asked that the Town's Harbor Master do the same so that she can take the information to Washington to lobby for the dredging projects.
- Groundwater permits are issued on a ten-year basis and usage must be monitored. She stated that good stewardship of the groundwater is important to everyone and that the DEQ should require the permitting process to be equal for all permit applicants, without exception.
- Supervisor Thornton stated that the \$1.2 million in funds for the broadband project has been cut and requested that Town Manager Ritter write a letter requesting that the project funding be reinstated.

5. *Scheduling of a Date for a Joint Public Workshop with the Planning Commission on the Draft Comprehensive Plan to Receive Public Comment.*

It was the consensus of Council to have a workshop to receive public comment on the draft Comprehensive Plan on February 22, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Chincoteague Center with planning consultants, Redman/Johnston. Town Attorney Poulson recommended that after that meeting, the Plan be reviewed district by district, noting the ramifications of each district and of changing the zones.

6. *Mayor and Council Announcements or Comments.*

- Councilman Wolffe commended Mr. Bryan Rush and Mr. John Nelson Jester for their hard work on updating the Town's Emergency Operations Plan.
- Councilwoman Richardson thanked Public Works Director Cosby and his department for installing the memorial plaque in Watson Park. She also commented on the article in the paper regarding trash on the causeway and stated that the Coast Guard used to clean the causeway. She hoped that it could be cleaned again soon.
- Town Attorney Poulson advised that he will have the proposed Noise Ordinance prepared soon.

7. *Closed Meeting in Accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia for Discussion of Possible Acquisition of Property.*

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson, to convene a closed meeting under Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia to discuss possible acquisition of property. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Wolffe motioned, seconded by Councilman Howard, to reconvene in regular session. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Speidel, to adopt a resolution of certification of the closed meeting.

WHEREAS, the Chincoteague Town Council has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chincoteague Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.

VOTE: Ayes- Howard, Richardson, Ross, Speidel, Wolffe
Nays- None
Absent- Conklin

Adjournment of Meeting

Mayor Tarr announced that the next meeting will be on February 15, 2007 at 7:30 pm.
Councilman Ross motioned, seconded by Councilman Howard, to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor

Town Manager